



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Human Rights Commission

Monday, April 8, 2019

5:15 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Julie McDermid, A Xiong, Brandon Perrine, Jonathan Maye-Cates, Nese Nasif, Rhonda Staats

Absent: 1 - Justice Weaver

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Maye-Cates, second by Nasif to APPROVE previous meeting minutes. The motion carried by voice vote.

Agenda Items:

1. [19-0479](#) Presentation from Mosaic Group on the evaluation of Fair Housing practice in La Crosse.

Attachments: [La Crosse Executive Summary.pdf](#)
[La Crosse Regional AI - 0313.pdf](#)

Melissa provided an overview of report. Staats asked about HUD funding cuts. Gregerson noted broadening stakeholder involved, including banks for home ownership and inter government acceptance of new family housing. Nasif asked about segregation measures in conflict with conclusion on loan access. Melissa noted data sources are different. Nasif mentioned having a "caveat" section noting the limitations of data. Thomas from UW-L also brought up wage stagnation and discrimination of people of color inhibiting economic mobility. Nasif asked what portion of the data did the survey information inform? Melissa stated housing affordability, regional concerns, and rental housing. Gregerson also noted less than 60% don't understand their fair housing rights. Of the survey respondents 86% were White and 4% were African American. Advertised at neighborhood events. Staats noted expanding access for those with disabilities. Thomas stated we need more ways to report discrimination across the board. Nasif stated under impediment there should be three things instead of two for HRC's role. Xiong stated that impediment number eight special ways to reach protected classes. Nese noted hate bias program at UW-L that offers a system for reporting with a mediation and data collection system.

2. Discussion and possible action of the Mission/Vision statements that were created as well as the policy regarding expenditure of funding.
3. Discussion on timeline for completing a strategic plan including identifying a facilitator for this process.

Conversation on defining goals - perhaps community forms waking up white book recommendation. Thomas - UWL noted groups working on racial justice are white. Thomas has advised these groups on next steps - expand to help the whole culture - expanding book reads around city - white privilege symposium tentatively planned at the La Crosse Center for October 16-17. Thomas (UWL) also noted his involvement in NAACP coming to La Crosse and that he still gets reports of complaints, especially with businesses - recommends a centralized regional office for all reported discrimination. Nese noted importance of assigned objectives before we engage public. Brandon noted we need to know what we're about and then engage the public. Nese noted this is to form our strategic plan. Brandon noted to ask Gordon to come for the first hour of a two hour event. Nese asked what are we? advocacy or action? Nese stated this is our work for the next year. Julia stated we also need to respond to actionable items. Julia asked about Monday evenings - HRC said yes.

4. Update on revisions to the ordinance with the City Council.
5. Discussion on identifying members of the Human Rights Commission to work with City Staff on website updates and maintenance.

Next meetings are May 13 and June 10. Julia noted "B" group April 25 at Northside Community church on homelessness. Celebration of life for Steve Johnson April 14 at Red Pines, wear fun rock t-shirt.

Adjournment

A motion made by Brandon, second by Nese to ADJOURN the meeting. The motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.